EPRC

ECONOMIC POLICY RESEARCH CENTRE

Annual Report

July – June

2016 – 2017

www.eprcug.org

ECONOMIC POLICY RESEARCH CENTRE

Who We Are

The Economic Policy Research Centre (EPRC) is Uganda's leading think tank in economic research and development policy. We provide policy analysis to support the formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of government policies.

Our Mission

To foster sustainable growth and development of the Ugandan economy by advancing the role of research in policy processes through three broad goals:

- Build the capacities of stakeholders to utilise EPRC's research products and services in economic policy development and management .
- Foster effective policy making to support the improvement of welfare and socio-economic status of Ugandans.
- Strengthen policy linkages and networks with national and international stakeholders.

Institutional Structure

EPRC was established in 1993 as an autonomous not for profit organization. It is located on Plot 51 Pool Road, Makerere University campus. The centre is governed by a Board of Management (BoM) chaired by the Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development/Secretary to the Treasury. The board comprises of representatives from Makerere University, Bank of Uganda, the Private Sector, the Research Community, National Planning Authority (NPA), and Makerere Institute of Social Research (MISR). The day-to-day running of the centre is coordinated by an Executive Director.

Paul Lakuma a Research Analyst receives from EPRC Board Members an award for Best EPRC Young Researcher in FY 2015/2016; and Best Exchange Rate Forecaster for Uganda in the 2016 Focus Economics Analyst Forecast Awards

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Executive Director's Message

Another year has drawn to a close and it is my pleasure to share with you the Economic Policy Research Centre (EPRC)'s accomplishments during the period July 2016 to June 2017. This period marked the end of implementation of the Centre's Medium Strategic Plan 2013-2017 which expired on June 30, 2017. Thus, the period was characterised by review of progress in implementation of the 2013-2017 strategic plan and development of a new strategic plan for the period 2017-2021. Several strategic planning activities have been held, including staff, board and stakeholder consultations as well as drafting and concretizing the action plan and scorecard for monitoring the plan.

In line with the Centre's strategic goal of *building the capacities of stakeholders to utilise EPRC's research products and services in economic policy development and management*, we were able to complete several research assignments. These included conducting policy research and policy analysis; policy engagement and communication activities; capacity strengthening activities (internal and external); and technical support/ policy advice to government Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs). In the subsequent sections of the report, we provide insights into the progress, achievements, policy impact (if any) and lessons learnt for each of these activities in turn.

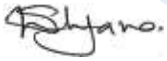
In regard to our core business- research and policy analysis, the Centre was able to conduct studies that attracted significant public interest nationally and internationally. These include: the situation analysis study conducted by EPRC in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) on the Employment Status and Engagement in Agriculture of Out-of-School Young Persons (14-17 years) in Uganda, and the assessment of the Economic Impact of Uganda's Green Growth Transition on Achieving Uganda's Development Ambition. The former study highlighted the risks and constraints faced by young persons aged 14-17 years, engaged in the agricultural sector in rural Uganda. It also explored the existing opportunities for them to successfully enter the labour market. The findings and recommendations of this study were used in drafting the National Strategy for Youth Employment in Agriculture. The evidence generated by the latter study was used by the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) to formulate the in country strategic plan of engagement for the next five years. GGGI is supporting the Uganda Government to streamline Green Growth initiatives in their plans and projects-especially on cities and urban areas.

During the reporting period the Centre witnessed increased interest and appreciation of its research work by Government Ministries Departments and Agencies (MDA), the most recent being Operation Wealth Creation (OWC). The OWC picked interest in the Centre's previous research work on the Tea Sector and has continued to engage the Centre in various technical and special advisory activities aimed at laying a foundation for the development programme of the tea industry. In addition, the Centre has been bestowed with the responsibility to develop policy memos for the Strategic Technical Economic Policy Management (STEPMAN) Forum. The forum under the stewardship of the Secretary to the Treasury comprises of the Top Policy Management of MoFPED. So far, the Centre's contribution to the forum has been used to inform the national budget for FY2017/18.

EPRC successfully conducted orientation and training workshops for the staff of Uganda Free Zones Authority (UFZA), and Uganda Revenue Authority in September 2016 and April 2017, respectively. The trainings were intended to impart knowledge and skills in conducting research from conceptualisation, through implementation to communication with policy audiences. As a result of the capacity exhibited during the trainings, EPRC researchers were co-opted on the committee to advice on mapping the locations of Free Zones in Uganda. Relatedly, EPRC in partnership with UNICEF Uganda conducted a series of orientation workshops for the Members of the 10th Parliament drawn from several committees notably; the Budget Committee, the Social Services Committee and the Parliamentary Forum on Children. The orientation was intended to identify and mentor champions of children issues at the parliamentary level. Over 50 MPs were engaged, in the activities that were implemented under the Public Finance for Children Programme which focused on making children issues more visible in the budgeting and policy processes. The MPs pledged to popularize the interests of children in their specific sessional and standing committees, in addition to tabling private members bills.

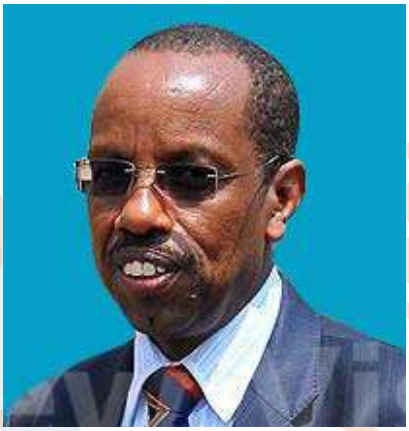
Against these accomplishments, I would wish to extend my appreciation to all our funders, notably the Government of Uganda and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC)'s Think Tank Initiative for the support rendered in implementation of the EPRC's annual work plan 2016/17. Thanks goes to the EPRC Board of Management for the oversight and guidance offered in the past year that enabled the Centre to meet its targets, objectives and mission. My thanks also go to all the EPRC staff that worked diligently towards the achievement of the Centre's objectives. I look forward to building on the success achieved and to the support and collaboration of all key stakeholders in the execution of our mandate.

We pledge to continue pursuing the Centre's mission of sustainable growth and development of the Ugandan economy through designing and implementation of an astute four year strategic plan for the period 2017-2021. We envisage a paradigm shift in our annual research planning from undertaking several scattered researches to more in-depth analysis of specific thematic areas. For the next financial year 2017/18 our research activities shall focus on **Fostering a Sustainable Agro-Industrialisation Agenda in Uganda**



Sarah N. Ssewanyana, PhD
Executive Director

Board of Management as at June 2017



Mr. Keith Muhakanizi
Permanent Secretary/Secretary to Treasury, Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development (Chairperson)

Arch. Dr. Barnabas Nawangwe
Deputy Vice Chancellor, Makerere University (Deputy Chairperson)

Mr. Gideon Badagawa
Executive Director, Private Sector Foundation of Uganda (Private Sector Representative)

Prof. Grace Bantebya Kyomuhendo
Professor, School of Women and Gender Studies (Member Representing Research Community)

Ms. Edigold Monday
Managing Director, Bank of Africa (U) Ltd (Independent Member)

Dr. John B. Ssekamatte- Ssebuliba
Head of Population and Social Services Planning National Planning Authority (Public Sector)

Dr. Jacob Opolot
Director, Research Department, Bank of Uganda (Ex-officio Member Representing Governor, BOU)

Dr. Sarah N. Ssewanyana
Executive Director, Economic Policy Research Centre

EPRC Staff as at June 2017

NAMES	POSITION	DEPARTMENT
RESEARCH TEAM		
1. Dr. Sarah Ssewanyana	Executive Director	
2. Dr. Ibrahim Kasirye	Principal Research Fellow	
3. Dr. Ezra Francis Munyabonera	Senior Research Fellow	Macroeconomics
4. Mr. Paul Corti Lakuma	Research Analyst III	Macroeconomics
5. Mr. Musa Mayanja Lwanga	Research Analyst II	Macroeconomics
6. Dr. Brian Sserunjogi	Research Fellow	Macroeconomics (Joined May 2017)
7. Mr. Joseph Mawejje	Research Analyst III	Macroeconomics (Left February 2017)
8. Dr. Swaibu Mbowa	Senior Research Fellow	Sectoral
9. Dr. Mildred Barungi	Research Fellow	Sectoral
10. Dr. Francis Mwesigye	Research Fellow	Sectoral
11. Mr. Tony Odokonyero	Research Analyst I	Sectoral
12. Dr. Isaac Shinyekwa	Senior Research Fellow	Trade and Regional Integration
13. Dr. Annette Kuteesa	Research Fellow	Trade and Regional Integration (Left April 2017)
14. Ms. Anita Ntale	Research Analyst I	Trade and Regional Integration
15. Mr. Martin Luther Munu	Research Analyst I	Trade and Regional Integration
16. Dr. Madina Guloba	Research Fellow	Microeconomics
17. Ms. Gemma Ahaibwe	Research Fellow	Microeconomics
18. Mr. Rakesh Gupta	Research Fellow / Project Staff	Microeconomics (Left January 2017)
19. Ms. Sheila Anne Depio	Research Analyst I	Microeconomics
ADMINISTRATIVE AND SUPPORT STAFF		
20. Ms. Mary Tusaba Kivunike	Finance Manger	Finance
21. Mr. Denis Arop Nono	Accountant	Finance
22. Ms. Elizabeth Birabwa Aliro	Programmes Manager	Information Management & Dissemination
23. Mr. Stephen Kasirye	ICT Specialist	Information Management & Dissemination
24. Ms. Peace Nagawa	Knowledge Management Specialist	Information Management & Dissemination
25. Ms. Fatumah Namubiru	Human Resource & Administration Manager	Human Resource and Administration
26. Ms. Caroline Nyakaisiki	Executive Assistant	Human Resource and Administration
27. Ms. Caroline Kasoke	Administrative Assistant	Human Resource and Administration
28. Ms. Aminah Balunywa	Front Desk Officer	Human Resource and Administration
29. Mr. Sam Lakwonyero	Driver	Human Resource and Administration
30. Mr. Deo Barugahare	Driver	Human Resource and Administration
31. Mr. Godson Busengendo	Driver	Human Resource and Administration
32. Mr. Stephen Mayanja	Driver	Human Resource and Administration
33. Mr. Robert Muzaaya	Office Attendant	Human Resource and Administration
34. Mr. Lawrence Luzze	Office Attendant	Human Resource and Administration

EPRC Impact Stories July 2016-June 2017

UNDP Award for Excellence in Human Development Reporting for the Year 2016

EPRC was recognised for leading the production of Uganda's Human Development Report on the theme "*Unlocking the development potential of Northern Uganda*" during the 2016 Awards for Excellence in Human Development Reporting. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Goodwill Ambassador, HRH Crown Prince Haakon of Norway and UNDP Administrator, Helen Clark, presented the award in a ceremony held on December 6, 2016 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. EPRC spearheaded the preparation of the report as well as stakeholder engagement and outreach, following a memorandum of understanding with UNDP Uganda in November 2014. The Uganda National Human Development Report (NHDRU) 2015 was the only report from Africa to win this year. It was recognised for outstanding outreach and stakeholder engagement. Since its launch, in December 2015, the NHDRU has changed the perception of policy makers and development partners from viewing Northern Uganda as an insurgency riddled region to a region with development potential. The report has helped to inform and shape policy, strategy and programming for Northern Uganda

Dr Sarah Ssewanyana (Holding a Plaque) Flanked by UNDP - Uganda Officials After Receiving the 2016 Human Development Reporting Award

Informing National Budgeting and Policy Formulation Processes

During this financial year the Centre has witnessed increased uptake of some of its previous research works, as well as new findings in the policy process.

First, as a follow up to the Cabinet approval of the National Fertiliser Policy documents in May 2016, (the fertiliser policy, it strategy and investment plan were spearheaded by EPRC in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries), funds were allocated in the 2017/18 national budget for implementation of a fertiliser voucher system as recommended in the policy. In addition, the Centre in collaboration with the University of California, Berkeley in California embarked on a Randomised Control Trial (RCT) to establish the extent of fertiliser use uptake by farmers. The output from this study provides useful information in the implementation of the voucher system.

Second, the report prepared by EPRC and other partners on "*Achieving Uganda's development ambition - the Economic impact of green growth: an agenda for green action*", is being used by the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) to formulate the in-country strategic plan of engagement for the next five years. GGGI supports government in streamlining green growth initiatives in its plans and projects-especially on cities and urban areas. The Permanent Secretary/ Secretary to the Treasury (PS/ST), has requested the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development (MoFPED) team

An Aerial View of Kampala. Streamlining Green Growth in the City Is of Paramount Importance.

to come up with a budget memo out of the report to present to cabinet. The team was also directed to ensure that the Budget Directorate incorporates the suggested budget line in the national budget for 2017/18. In addition, the document acted as the main background report to the development of the Uganda Green growth Strategy spearheaded by the National Planning Authority (NPA) with financial support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Third, the situation analysis study conducted by EPRC in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) on the Employment Status and Engagement in Agriculture of Out-of-School Young Persons (14-17 Years) in Uganda provided evidence used in drafting of the National Strategy for Youth Employment in Agriculture. The study sought to identify the risks and constraints faced by young persons aged 14-17 years, engaged in the agricultural sector in rural Uganda. It also explored the existing opportunities for them to successfully enter the labour market.

Fourth, as a result of EPRC previous research on the tea sector, EPRC was invited to share its research findings with Operation Wealth Creation (OWC) and with the President's Office. As a result, EPRC is already participating in special advisory meetings that are laying the ground work for development of an enabling environment to boost the tea sector. Most recently EPRC was invited to make a presentation on the status of the agricultural sector at the 3rd National NAADS/OWC Annual Review Meeting attended by central government officials, politicians, and top local government leaders, commercial and smallholder farmers.

Growing Demand from MDAs for Policy Analysis

During the reporting period the Centre received new formal requests from Government Ministries Departments and Agencies (MDAs) in the areas of policy analysis and use of research evidence in policy processes. Most notable is the Centre's engagement with the Top Policy Management (TPM) of MoFPED under the Strategic Technical Economic Policy Management (STEPMAN) Forum. EPRC has so far presented two policy memos; one on *"The Transformative Approach to Uganda's Export Strategy"* and the other on *"Agro Industrialisation for Inclusive Growth and Development"*. The Centre is currently working on the third policy memo under the theme "*Mobilising Long Term Financing for Agro Industrialisation*". The STEPMAN Forum outputs were used to inform the national budget for FY 2017/18 and EPRC's contribution has been appreciated by TPM of MoFPED. There are also on-going discussions on a formal engagement with NPA.

Dr. Swaibu Mbowa, Senior Research Fellow EPRC Engages with Lt. Gen. Charles Angina, Deputy Commander Operation Wealth Creation at the 3rd NAADS/OWC Annual Review and Planning Meeting.

Establishment of Additional Platforms for Information Sharing and Engagement

The Centre developed and launched new information platforms and channels, as a way of broadening its communication and outreach networks with national and international stakeholders. The Uganda Children's Portal, the first of its kind in Uganda was launched on June 21, 2017 by EPRC in collaboration with UNICEF Uganda. The portal, is an online hub or *'one stop shop'* for everything you wish to know on children in Uganda. It provides information on the lives of Ugandan children in regard to their fundamental rights - the rights to health, education and development, protection, and participation. It is also a unique online resource to share ideas, and draw on success stories to replicate and/or scale up relevant interventions to advance the children's agenda in Uganda.

Stakeholders Attending the Launch of the Uganda Children's Portal Held on June 21, 2017 at EPRC

Relatedly, a National Social Service Delivery Equity Atlas under the theme "*Rethinking Public Finance for Children: Monitoring for Results"* was launched to strengthen Government's monitoring systems by moving beyond an accountability trail for budgetary resources to a system of tracking service delivery performance and impact. In addition, the Uganda Children's News Digest, an online quarterly newsletter was established to share information about Uganda's progress on securing lives and rights of children, as well as topical issues like current research, opinions, experiences; and a wealth of lessons drawn from child actors within and outside the country.

Deigo Angemi, Chief of Social Policy and Advocacy at UNCEF -Uganda Makes Remarks at the Launch of the Service Delivery Equity Atlas Held at EPRC on October 26, 2016.

Research and Policy Analysis Performance

The Centre has in place a Research Agenda that is aligned to its overall organisational Medium Term Strategic Plan 2013/14 – 2016/17. The Strategic Plan focuses on the following thematic areas: (i) economy, employment and public finance management; (ii) microeconomic analysis, service delivery and social protection, (iii) private sector development and competitiveness, (iv) natural resources management, (v) trade and regional integration, and (vi) policy inconsistency and implementation gaps.

Accordingly, at the beginning of each financial year, the Centre develops an annual research plan which is approved by the Board of Management (BoM). The 2016/17 Plan was approved by the BoM in its 68th BoM meeting held on August 25, 2017. It was hinged on the Centre's strategic goal of building the capacities of stakeholders to demand and utilise EPRC's research products and services in economic policy development and management.

To this end the Centre undertook three types of research namely - core, home grown and commissioned to realise its Strategic objective of contributing to effective policy making through evidence-based research products and services. Core and home grown studies are initiated by the Centre's in-house researchers and/or in collaboration with its strategic partners both local and international. On the other hand, commissioned studies are initiated by the Centre's stakeholders but must be in line with the EPRC's research agenda. Through these various research types the centre is able to explore a broad range of policy issues, while producing comprehensive and disaggregated analyses to address specific knowledge gaps and needs to inform policy. The following is a description of some of the key research work undertaken during the reporting period by thematic area.

A Focus Group Discussion Being Conducted by One of the EPRC Enumerators for the Randomised Control Trial on Fertiliser Application in Mubende District.

Theme 1: Economy, Employment and Public Finance Management

This theme seeks to provide in-depth understanding on how the Government can sustain high economic growth and create employment particularly, for the youth, as well as articulate the inclusive growth agenda on how to sustain poverty reduction and curb the growing inequality among Ugandans. EPRC efforts in this area have been geared towards providing evidence and analyses that improve policy processes and boost institutional capabilities that guarantee economic growth, inclusive growth and Uganda's competitiveness within the East African Community (EAC). In fulfilment of this purpose, EPRC in co-operation with its partners conducted the following studies:

Macroeconomic Effects of Mobile Money in Uganda

Authors: Joseph Mawejje and Paul Corti Lakuma

The study examined the effects of mobile money, on aggregate economic activity and other macroeconomic variables. It also estimated the long-run effect of mobile money deposits and value of transactions on monetary aggregates and the short-term effects on selected macroeconomic variables. The results showed modest macroeconomic impacts, as mobile money had moderate positive effects on monetary aggregates, the consumer price index, and private sector credit. Mobile money deposits did respond to changes in monetary policy instruments, signalling possible ameliorating effects for the conduct of monetary policy. These results provide evidence for policy makers to continue supporting the growth of mobile

money platforms. In particular, policy makers should provide the policy and regulatory framework through which mobile money balances can become interest-bearing assets, as this will further strengthen the monetary policy transmission mechanism.

Financing Infrastructure Development in Uganda

Authors: Joseph Mawejje and Ezra Francis Munyambonera

Uganda's progress towards achieving inclusive sustainable growth is curtailed by large deficits in infrastructure stock, particularly in the transport and energy sectors. This study explored the options for financing the scaling up of infrastructure development in Uganda. The findings indicated that, the best available options for financing infrastructure are; enhanced domestic resource mobilisation and improved efficiency of public investment management. The study deduces that the dwindling availability of concessional financing and options in private financing could complicate the debt sustainability dynamics if challenges in public investment management and execution are not addressed. It recommends scaling up of domestic revenue mobilization by leveraging the contributions of non-tax revenues, expanding the tax base by unlocking the potentially large contributions from the informal sector; and curtailing of capital flight.

Education, Marriage, Fertility and Labour Market Experiences of Young Women in Uganda: A Qualitative Approach

Authors: Gemma Ahaibwe, Emanuel Mugole, Sarah Ssewanyana, Ibrahim Kasirye

The study conducted in collaboration with University of Sussex and University of Nairobi under the three year project -Early labour market transitions of women in Uganda explores the inter linkages between the transitions from school to work or motherhood and/or marriage and the ensuing effects on future labour market outcomes/ choices. The study results show that discriminatory social norms and practices still exist –particularly in rural areas - and they affect the ability of girls and young women towards achieving their educational and economic capabilities. The majority of young people continue to be engaged in vulnerable employment with limited prospects for growth because of limited access to capital and inadequate skills to productively engage in other activities; the youth who lack skills and capital tend to get stuck in dead-end jobs. In contrast, young people with more education are likely to transit to better jobs as and when employment opportunities arise. The study was conducted as part of a multi-country research project examining labour market transitions for young girls in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda funded under the auspices of the Growth and Economic Opportunities for Women (GrOW) program. The GrOW program is jointly funded by Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC), UK's Department for International Development (DFID), and The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation.

Theme 2: Microeconomic Analysis, Social Service Delivery and Social Protection

This theme focuses on strengthening understanding of the linkage between macroeconomic performance and sectoral/ microeconomics that are necessary to speed up the pace of socio-economic structural transformation. It entails research that relates to productivity enhancement, geographical and industry shifts in factors of production and their impact on incomes and household welfare, and institutional efficiency issues which have emerged as a major constraint to socio-economic transformation. EPRC work in this area also continues to inform the growing debate on the potential economic impacts of enhancing direct social protection for vulnerable groups in Uganda. In the period under review the following research activities were conducted:

A Woman Searches Through Muddy Water for Gold in One of Uganda's Artisanal Mines. Majority of Young Women Engage in Vulnerable Employment with Limited Prospects for Skilling and Growth.

Public-Private Partnerships in the Ugandan Education System: Evaluation of the PEAS Schools Network Under the Uganda USE Programme

Authors: Francis Mwesigye, Mildred Barungi, Paul Corti Lakuma, Madina Guloba and Ibrahim Kasirye

The Centre in collaboration with Ark-PEAS, continued implementing phase two of the three year evaluation project of Promoting Equality in African Schools (PEAS) program working under the Uganda Universal Secondary Education (USE) Programme. As a follow up to the baseline survey conducted in 28 schools during the third school term of 2015, a midline survey was carried out in August 2016 with a view to comparing access and quality for the two survey periods. The midline evaluation added tools to examine in detail the sustainability and cost-efficiency of PEAS schools relative to other schools. Both baseline and midline surveys were complemented with student achievement tests in literacy and numeracy conducted by the National Assessment of Progress in Education (NAPE). Consistent with the baseline survey, the midline survey reaffirmed that PEAS admits relatively disadvantaged students who otherwise would not have access to secondary education in mainstream schools. Even though PEAS students have lower prior academic attainment, there are no significant differences in their performance in English and Maths tests compared with students in other school types, demonstrating that PEAS helps students to close the attainment gap. On average, PEAS schools are more financially sustainable and tend to be less costly per child, and on average, PEAS students pay lower total fees than their counterparts in non-PEAS government and private schools.

Universal Health Coverage in Uganda: The Critical Health Infrastructure, Healthcare Coverage and Equity

Authors: Tonny Odokonyero, Francis Mwesigye, Annet Adong, and Swaibu Mbowa

Some of the recent studies that have assessed UHC in Uganda have primarily focused on the financial risk protection aspect of UHC, but did not comprehensively analyse coverage including health system delivery or intervention areas. This study examined coverage based on healthcare intervention areas, – with a focus on Reproductive, Maternal, and Child (RMC) healthcare with the aim of measuring progress towards UHC. It also analysed equity by computing Composite Coverage Index and Coverage Gap Scores. The findings revealed that progress towards UHC improved marginally, but overall healthcare coverage index remained low and disparities in coverage across regions and socio-economic strata remained. The study recommends a coherent set of health sector policy reforms, regarding health financing, for instance, while drawing lessons from the successful policy efforts observed in other countries such as Rwanda, if Uganda is to achieve UHC.

A Pathway to Social Protection Development in Uganda: a Synthesis Report

Authors: Madina Guloba, Sarah Ssewanyana and Elizabeth Birabwa

EPRC in collaboration with a consortium of the INCLUDE Platform Uganda Partners and the INCLUDE Knowledge Platform on Inclusive Development Policies continued with the implementation of the Policy Knowledge Communities Project. The project supported by Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands seeks to strengthen evidence based policy advocacy on women entrepreneurship and social protection in Uganda. Under the project EPRC was able to review and synthesise the institutions, policies, laws, implementation plans and evidence that are aligned towards supporting social protection in Uganda. The findings showed that there are many vulnerabilities within the economy and that females are at a greater disadvantage than males. The study also showed that the funds allocated to social protection are still insufficient and though policy frameworks are in place, the institutions responsible for spearheading social protection are not adequate, as vulnerability is still high and uncoordinated interventions continue to proceed with no operational guidelines. The study recommends that for successful policy action, it is important to ensure institutional coordination, engage stakeholders at the onset of programme conceptualisation, include the informal sector, liberalise the pension sector, and strengthen non-financial social protection initiatives.

Rural Women Entrepreneurship in Uganda: A Synthesis Report on Policies, Evidence, and Stakeholders

Authors: Madina Guloba, Sarah Ssewanyana and Elizabeth Birabwa

Still under the INCLUDE Knowledge Community project, the Centre was able to produce another synthesis report that puts into perspective the nature of Uganda's rural woman entrepreneurs, paying close attention to the women targeted by the Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme (UWEP). In particular, it looks at the status of women employment and entrepreneurship in Uganda, laws and policies, and assesses the viability of women entrepreneurship. The results affirmed that most rural women are illiterate (and run informal non-farm enterprises that are micro and seasonal in nature and for them to grow the government needs to resume adult literacy programmes - particularly, the financial component.

Uganda's Agricultural Extension Systems: How Appropriate is the Single Spine Structure?

Authors: Mildred Barungi, Madina Guloba and Annet Adong

Uganda's agricultural extension system has experienced several changes since colonial times. Despite well intended interventions in extension reforms, a large number of smallholder farmers and other vulnerable groups remain unreached by the various public extension systems, and the private sector plays only a limited role. This study sought to critically review the historical and current state of agricultural extension reforms in Uganda based on the Medium Term Expenditure Framework Fiscal Year data for the agricultural sector, the 2014 ATAAS baseline survey dataset and key informant interviews in Kampala. The findings indicated that the rationale for providing extension services in Uganda was still relevant, as there is unmet demand for extension services and that farmer's value access to advice, although the extension approach used by NAADS was not efficacious. The study indicated that the decentralisation framework represents a key opportunity for the implementation of any extension reform however there is need for proper coordination across departments both within and outside of the agriculture sector, if the Single Spine is to attain the intended results. Furthermore the feasibility of the Single Spine extension system can only be realised if challenges that are akin to those of other extension systems are addressed immediately.

Employment Status and Engagement in Agriculture of Out-of-School Young Persons (14-17 Years) in Uganda

Authors: Francis Mwesigye, Mildred Barungi, Paul Lakuma, and Madina Guloba

This situation analysis study conducted in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) sought to identify the risks and constraints faced by young persons aged 14-17 years engaged in the agricultural sector in rural Uganda. It also sought to establish the existing opportunities for them to successfully enter the labour market. Findings show that, nationally, over 19 percent of the young persons aged between 14 and 17 years stop schooling before attaining any form of academic certificate. The majority of out-of-school young person's live in rural areas and are engaged in agriculture related activities (either as contributing family labour or as hired help). These young persons are faced with several challenges: including lack of access to production resources such as land and financial services, lack of, or inadequate legal protection from predatory/ exploitative employers, being engaged in hazardous work, sexual abuse and harassment, among others. The study recommends a range of policy actions that can be adopted to improve the employment situation of the out-of-school young person. These include: harmonising the various policy frameworks to fully cater for the 14-17 year olds; conducting awareness raising campaigns to empower young persons about their rights; establishing at least one Business, Technical, Vocational Education and Training (BTVET) institution in each district to enhance technical skills in specialized fields (such as farming, carpentry, metal works and construction)among others.

Theme 3: Private Sector Development and Competitiveness

EPRC is aware that despite the increased role of the State in economic growth and development, particularly in the provision of public goods and strategic investments, the private sector remains a key engine of economic growth. This theme therefore provides insights into the role of the private sector vis-à-vis state in building a competitive economy. EPRC Research in this area informs how the private sector should reposition itself as the engine of economic growth as well as evidence on how it should adapt to the growing competitive regional business environment in EAC and other regional blocks. The research activities accomplished under this theme during the reporting period are:

Barriers to Firm Expansion and Transition in Greater Kampala Area

Authors: Annette Kuteesa, Corti Paul Lakuma, Rakesh Gupta and Ibrahim Kasirye

This assessment was conducted to facilitate policy makers in the design of an economic development strategy based on evidence and an understanding of the constraints that affect the ability of various categories of enterprises in the tradable sector to expand and achieve higher economies of scale and productivity. The study was conducted by EPRC in collaboration with the World Bank, London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) capstone students, KCCA and the neighbouring local authorities (Mukono and Wakiso). The results suggest various major barriers experienced by small, medium and large firms which increase the cost of doing business affecting their productivity and growth. These include: lack of credit as a result of absence of collateral, unreliability of credit scores and high interest rates, lack of knowledge and awareness of the tax system specifically, in understanding the complex tax codes including the new online systems, .poorly regulated markets, poor entrepreneurship skills, crime and theft from employees and a lack of raw materials which affect production. The study points to provision of vocational education, improvement of tax administration, guarantor program to facilitate access to credit and development of synergies between authorities

in the Greater Kampala Metropolitan Area and MDAs to create infrastructure in industrial parks.

Theme 4: Natural Resource Management

Through this theme, EPRC seeks to provide extensive research that supports policy debate and formulation, and enhances the quality of strategies, policies and management practices that relate to Natural Resources Management (NRM). Under this theme, EPRC's has focused mainly on those resources that are critical to sustainable growth and development. These include: (i) Oil resources management, (ii) Non-oil natural resources and climate change, (iii) Renewable and non-renewable energy, and (iv) sustainable land use.

Measuring the Capabilities of Firms to Deliver Local Content in Resource Rich Countries

Authors: Marcelo Neuman, Roger Tissot, Daniel Mabrey and et al

In the period under review, EPRC partnered with the King Abdullah Petroleum Studies and Research Centre (KAPSARC) to conduct a study of Ugandan firms, their capabilities and potential to serve the oil and gas industry as suppliers. The specific findings were: Ugandan firms demonstrate relatively good performance in some important dimensions, including absorptive capacity and innovation. However, this is curbed by low levels of linkages with the academic and industrial sectors, limited exports and poor interaction with the financial sector. The firms surveyed showed an entrepreneurial behaviour, which is encouraging for public policies promoting the private sector. Moreover, almost all the firms are privately owned. The results also showed that International Standards, important in oil and gas operations, were not widely used. The study recommends that plugging this gap is an opportunity that can be addressed by local content policies. The crucial factor is to design local content policies based on existing capabilities of local firms and what goals can be achieved under different planning horizons. Knowing the firm's capabilities, strengths, weakness, constraints and the context under which they operate can result in the formulation of more appropriate policies for the local market.

Theme 5: Policy Inconsistency and Implementation Gaps

EPRC research in this area examines Government behaviour in as far as policy formulation and implementation is concerned. It assesses whether the current policy direction, planning, prioritisation, budgeting, implementation and monitoring processes are consistent with national development outcomes. The focus is on frameworks required to harmonize economic and social policies as well as political pronouncements in order to get the desired outcomes. In addition, it assess the appropriate institutional linkages that will ensure consistency in policy implementation.

A Strategic Review of the Sustainable Development Goal 2 in Uganda

Authors: Sarah Ssewanyana, Ibrahim Kasirye, Sheila Depio and Madina Guloba

EPRC in collaboration with NPA and the World Food Programme undertook a comprehensive strategic review of Sustainable Development Goal 2 (SDG2) to facilitate further localisation and alignment of the Goal and its targets with the national development frameworks. The strategic review examined Uganda's preparedness in achieving the SDG2 and its 5 targets. The review presents an in-depth analysis of the food and nutrition security situation in Uganda and examines the extent to which the existing policies, legal and institutional frameworks and programmes have addressed the food and nutrition issues in the country. It identifies gaps and makes recommendations of strategic interventions the country needs to implement in order to facilitate the achievement of SDG2 and its targets in an inclusive manner. The review also takes cognisance of the interlinkages between the overall 17 Goals of sustainable development.

The First Deputy Premier, Hon. Moses Ali Launching the SDG2 Report at Imperial Royale Hotel, Kampala.

Linking Budgets to Plans in a Constrained Resource and Institutional Environment: The Case of Uganda

Authors: Corti Paul Lakuma & Musa Mayanja Lwanga

The enactment of Uganda's first National Development Plan has largely been marked by poor implementation of its activities, leading to poor budget outcomes. This has largely been due to the inaccuracies of the Medium Term Expenditure Framework in forecasting the budget, to leakage, and to the tendency of the executive branch of government to make public promises in the budget. The slow progress of the effort to mobilise domestic revenues and the significant reduction in donor financing have exacerbated the problem, leading to an accumulation of arrears by way of supplementary budgets. Absorption constraints, as a consequence of lack of expenditure control at the sectoral level, are also partly responsible for the poor integration of budgets into plans. The paper suggests reforms aimed at increasing technical capacity at three levels: budget forecasting, budget operation in responding to budget shortfalls/surplus, and technical efficiency and effectiveness in sectoral reallocation in the face of implementation costs. The paper also emphasises the importance of political institutional support in demanding performance, transparency and accountability for sustainable budgetary outcomes.

Theme 6: Trade and Regional Integration

EPRC research work in this area aims to create and support understanding of the likely implications of the changing global and regional trade dynamics on Uganda's trade. For instance, the role of the development state in trade facilitation? Monitoring and evaluation of frameworks for the implementation of EAC and other Regional Economic Commission protocols and the interaction of political objectives and economic incentives in driving regional integration?

Determinants of Domestic Food Price Differentials in Uganda: The Potential for and Constraints on Intra-County Trade

Authors: Isaac M.B. Shinyekwa and Miriam Katunze

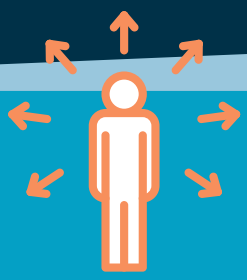
The study examined the determinants of price differentials across 79 districts in Uganda and identified the main production areas for key agricultural commodities and consumption destinations. The study noted a wide range of price differences across the country, which, to a large extent were attributable to the interaction between remoteness and physical infrastructure. The study also revealed that the effect of per capita income on price differentials was relatively uniform across commodities. The findings signalled the importance of strengthening the capacities of farmers and their productivity as a means of improving livelihoods and fostering more efficient markets with faster supply responses to changes in prices. The findings further emphasized the significance of spatial dimensions and infrastructure conditions in Uganda, thus suggesting that infrastructural development must be a focus to reduce price differentials in the country.

A Comparative Analysis of the Tourism Sectors in the East African Community: The Way Forward for Uganda

Authors: Isaac M.B. Shinyekwa, Francis M. Mwaura and Patrick Apecu

Uganda is endowed with various tourism attractions including diverse nature based, faith based, culture and heritage, eco-tourism attractions. Despite these abundant resources and tourism attraction potential, Uganda still lags behind some of EAC countries, specifically Kenya and Tanzania in attracting tourism and consequently realising comparatively less revenue from the sector. Uganda's tourism sector holds a huge potential for sustainable growth and development but is currently characterized by inadequacies to initiate meaningful tourism development. It is for this reason that EPRC conducted a comparative analysis of the tourism sectors in the EAC with a view to improve on how the sector in Uganda can fully exploit the existing potential. Results suggest that Uganda invests less in the sector, realizes less income, spends less on marketing, has relatively higher inadequacies in infrastructure facilities and attracts a smaller number of visitors in comparison to the rest of the EAC partner states, specifically Kenya and Tanzania. The study recommends increased investments in tourism sector by both the public and private sectors, decentralisation of the sector management to the district level, establishment of a tourism information data and management system, prioritisation of product development, improvement of the infrastructure and skilling of the human resource, if the sector is to operate more competitively within the region

Capacity Building Efforts for Policy Research and Analysis



One of the Centre's strategic objective is contributing towards closing the skills gaps for state and non-state actors in up-taking evidence for better development outcomes. This is done through collaborative research activities with actors, training sessions, and/or policy advice through representation on various sectoral and technical working groups.

Technical support and policy advice to stakeholders

During the course of FY2016/17, our researchers continued to offer technical support and policy advice to various MDAs through membership to technical working groups and sectoral committees. Below are some highlights of these membership:

Drafting of key policy documents

EPRC was invited by NPA to be part of the technical teams drafting key government policy documents. Specifically, first, EPRC was engaged to undertake a Strategic Review of the Sustainable Development Goals 2 (SDG2), which aims to: "end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture by 2030". The strategic review examined Uganda's preparedness in achieving the goal and its five (5) targets and made recommendations of the strategic interventions that Uganda needs to implement in order to facilitate the achievement of SDG2 and its targets in an inclusive manner.

EPRC also participated in the drafting of the Uganda Green Growth Development Strategy (UGGDS) spearheaded by the NPA and the Climate Change Department- Ministry of Water and Environment (MoWE). The strategy seeks to operationalise the green economy principle as stipulated in the Uganda Vision 2040 and provide guidance on how Uganda can attain economic growth and environmental sustainability along a low carbon mission path. EPRC's role was to present background papers on prerequisites for achieving Uganda's Green growth ambition.

In addition, through the Sub-Committee on the Capital Markets, the Centre offered technical support towards drafting and editing of a master plan document that would guide the development of capital markets in Uganda. The Centre also provided empirical evidence to support the design and formulation of the National youth Strategy for Youth Employment in Agriculture.

Scrutiny and Appraisal of Government Strategies and Programmes

Supported the parliamentary Committee on Finance, Planning and Economic Development, to appreciate and appraise the Charter of Fiscal Responsibility for FY 2016/17 -2021 which is intended to mobilise and expend government resources within the law in conformity to the various international protocols that Uganda is signatory to, such as the East Africa Monetary Union (EAMU). The presentations focused particularly, on challenges of EAMU convergence criteria, enforcement of budget ceilings and supplementary budgets.

EPRC offered technical support to the MTIC via the National Committee on Trade Facilitation that was responsible for interpretation of sections 2 and 3 of the WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation (TFA) and review of the adjoining work plan and project proposal. EPRC played a role in explaining the implications of the agreement to current trade policies and practices. This interaction helped to strengthen linkages between the EPRC's Trade and regional Integration Unit and MTIC; and provided a good policy background to the trade facilitation study that was being spearheaded by EPRC.

Through membership to National Technical working group on Monitoring and Evaluation under the Office of the Prime Minister, the Centre's researchers were able to contribute to the review of the sector Budget performance of the MDAs and implementation of the 23 Presidential strategic priority areas. The technical group also considered the Government Annual Performance Report (GAPR) that provides a comprehensive assessment of Government's performance and the results of public spending of the Financial Year. The Report focuses on the performance of (MDAs) against output targets across all Sectors of Government and progress made in the implementation of key actions agreed during the last Government performance retreats. In addition, it tracks progress made against actions and commitments outlined in the NRM Manifesto and implementation of the actions agreed in the previous retreats of Government assessment. The purpose of this Report is to provide Cabinet with an overview of where Government has performed well or not during the previous financial year across all areas of public investment.

Training of EPRC Stakeholders

During the reporting period the Centre placed emphasis on training staff in government agencies to facilitate their uptake of evidence. To this end two agencies were targeted- the Uganda Free Zones Authority and the Uganda Revenue Authority (URA). On 08 and 15 September 2016, the Centre carried out a capacity building training to impart knowledge and skills in research proposal development, report writing and delivering presentations for the UFZA staff members. A total of twenty one (21) participants attended the training. A similar training was conducted for URA's staff in the Customs Department for almost two weeks, in two batches – 17th-22nd and 24th-28th April 2017. The training was attended by a total of 43 staff, comprising of officers, supervisors and managers drawn from URA's Trade Division of Customs which is mandated to provide technical support to the Customs Department and URA in all matters pertaining to Customs such as valuation of goods, tariff treatment of goods, management of exemptions, legal advisory function, management of customs securities and preferential treatment of goods, among others.

Strengthening In-House Human Resource Capacities

The Centre exploited various capacity building efforts to enable its staff acquire and improve on the skills needed to fulfil the Centre's mandate. Nineteen trainings were attended by researchers, either face-to-face and/or online courses. These spanned different disciplines and fields including; impact and programme evaluation, macroeconomic modelling and forecasting, climate smart forecasting, trade law and development as well as trade facilitation. The macroeconomics research team was able to benefit from KAPSARC capacity building in modelling of the macroeconomic impact of Uganda's midstream (pipeline and refinery) oil activities as well as the IMF- capacity building development course in Macro econometric forecasting. Two Research Fellows Corti Paul Lakuma and Dr. Francis Mwesigye were part of the African scientists and experts trained on application of the European Union's Agricultural Member States Modelling (AGMEMOD). The 5-day course hosted at the Thunen Institute aimed at improving the knowledge of participants and supporting them to develop country specific models based on the AGMEMOD framework and take into account existing coupling and feedback effects from farms and country specific structures.

A two day leadership and management training was attended by all Heads of Departments of Research, and line managers of the non-research functions on February 17-18, 2017. Two staff of the Human Resource and Administration also attended a three day orientation in electronic records management and e-governance, while one staff of the Information Management and Dissemination unit participated in advocacy and policy influence training organized by Makerere School of Public Health under the European Union supported SPEED Project.

In a bid to encourage researchers to maintain high standard and quality of work, the EPRC Board of Management launched a new "Best Young Researchers Award" to reward (on an annual basis) the top three best performing young researchers who exhibit excellence in implementation of the Centre's annual research plan. The winners of the first edition 2015/16 were Paul Lakuma and Joseph Mawejje, both Research Analysts. Lakuma was also recognized for emerging the Best Exchange Rate Forecaster for Uganda in the 2016 Focus Economics Analyst Forecast Awards. Relatedly, Mildred Barungi a Research Fellow with the Sectoral department was commended for emerging among the top three contestants at the 17th Global Development Network (GDN) poster competition. The winners of the second edition for the FY 2016/17 were Corti Paul Lakuma- a Research Fellow, Tony Odokonyero and Sheilla Anne Depio both Research Analysts. They were presented with plaques and other prices by members of the Research Advisory Panel of the EPRC Board of Management at a ceremony held at the Centre's conference hall on August 24, 2017.

Internships Program

The overall objective of the internship is to enable the students to link theory to practise; as well as an avenue for the Centre to identify potential researchers, associates and staff. The Centre runs two internship programs, one for undergraduate students with one more year prior to leaving university; and for final year postgraduate students pursuing economic related courses. For the entire period under consideration, five undergraduates (three of whom were females) were admitted under the undergraduate internship program drawn from Makerere University and the Islamic University in Uganda. Under the postgraduate programme, the Centre took on three postgraduate students from Makerere University College of Business and Management Sciences (COBAMS). The Centre also admitted international interns; two AidData fellows and one fellow on the MasterCard Foundation program. The Aid data fellows conducted training sessions to EPRC researchers and interns on the use of GIS. Some researchers were able to write a paper based on this training.

2017 AidData Fellows, Katherine Whitton and Daniel K. Abaogye Cut a Cake During Their Send-Off at EPRC

Policy Engagement and Communication Activities

Dr. Sarah Ssewanyana, Executive Director EPRC, Opening the Poverty Measurement Dialogue Held in December 2016 at EPRC

One of the key strategic objectives of the Centre is to strengthen and broaden policy linkages and networks with national and international stakeholders. Institutional networks were maintained during the review period, through different strategies and tactics employed to promote the EPRC research products and services, and reach out to and engage with key stakeholders. The key stakeholders that were engaged included the media (print, social and broadcast); MDAs (especially, MoFPED, NPA, Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MoGLSD), Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBoS), Operations Wealth Creation (OWC), Kampala City Council Authority (KCCA), Office of the President and Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), among others); and development partners (especially, World Bank, DfID, UNDP, UN World Food Programme, and UNICEF, among others). The tactics, strategies and outcomes arising therefrom are discussed separately in the subsequent sections.

National Events

On August 10, 2016 a stakeholder workshop on "*Early labour market transitions for young women in Uganda*" was held at EPRC conference room. The intention was to introduce the project to participants, share preliminary findings and receive feedback. The outcomes of this workshop informed the project activities thereafter – including the qualitative and econometric analysis.

On October 26, 2016 in collaboration with MoFPED and UNICEF, EPRC held a Public Finance for Children (PF4C) Conference. During this conference the partners launched the National Social Service Delivery Equity Atlas under the theme "*Rethinking Public Finance for Children: Monitoring for Results*". The Atlas disaggregates service delivery and identifies gaps in the critical sectors by region, which together with policy briefs provide direction on where and what effort is required.

Legislators from the 10th Parliament and Government Officials Attend an Orientation Workshop on Making Children More Visible at Parliamentary Level Co-Organised by EPRC and UNICEF Uganda.

Dissemination Events

The dissemination events included those that were based on the Centre's planned research activities and those that were collaborative in nature. In total 14 dissemination events were organised – Ten (10) national workshops/ dissemination/seminar events, and four (4) regional dissemination events were held during the review period. Key highlights included:

Regional Events

On November (16th and 22nd), with support from UNICEF, the Centre conducted regional awareness events on child focused research agenda for the period 2016-2020 that was initiated by the National Council for Children (NCC) and Africare in 2016. The awareness events were held at Gulu University and Mbarara University (Institute of Inter-disciplinary Research and Training). The aim was to provide a platform for developing a systematic approach for rigorous research with an aim of producing evidence to support policies and programs that are geared towards improving the lives of children.

The EPRC organized four (4) business climate regional workshops during December 13, 2016 – June 1, 2017 period as follows: Northern region in Gulu on December 13, 2016; Eastern region in Jinja on December 15, 2016; Western region in Fort portal on May 30, 2017; and Central region in Kampala on June 1, 2017. These workshops provided a platform for EPRC to disseminate the findings of the business climate index [one of the EPRC flagship research products]. In addition, the workshops enabled closer and meaningful engagement of the private sector with a view of garnering closer working ties and mutually beneficial relationships. In particular, the engagements provided a platform for identification and deliberations of the key policy challenges constraining private sector competitiveness in Uganda. These dissemination events demonstrated the need for frequent engagement with the private sector on policy issues that affect their productivity. Key emerging issues where more engagement is required include: i) Issues relating to taxation and tax policy; ii) Issues related to trade and regional integration [e.g. implications of the protocols signed at the EAC level for firms at lower level]; iii) Issues related to investment options and opportunities; and iv) the role of research in promoting private sector development. The participants were drawn from the Local political leadership, Local Governments administration, successful private sector players; and district government departments that play a role in private sector development (e.g. URA).

EPRC Open Day

A Movit Uganda Business Representative Shares Ideas on How the Private Sector Can Harness Research for Wealth Creation and Development During the EPRC Open Day Held on November 30, 2016.

On November 30, 2016, the Centre held The 2nd Open Day under the theme *"How the private sector can harness research in creating wealth and development in Uganda"*. The main purpose was to showcase EPRC before the private sector – what EPRC stands for, its capabilities, research products, how the Centre can learn from the private sector on how to improve its engagement with it and the policy makers. This avenue was also used to receive feedback from the private sector on how EPRC could position itself to serve it better. Key emerging issues raised by the private sector actors included: *more engagement of EPRC with the private sector to boost its visibility within the sector;* and provision of more evidence at the micro and meso levels as well as on regional integration to inform the activities within the sector.

Public Dialogues

Four public dialogues were held during the review period. These included the "*Poverty measurement in Uganda: Is it time to revisit the poverty line?*" held on December 01, 2016. This was a collaborative event with the World Bank. The emerging issues were: why is the claim that non-food inflation has risen whereas the Uganda Bureau of Statistics shows a reversal? What explains the food security and nutrition trends that have failed to match the poverty trends? It was eminent during the dialogue that Uganda had made remarkable reduction in monetary poverty, however, the country still faced widespread deprivation in several non-monetary dimensions of poverty, mainly improved sanitation, access to electricity, education (completion and progression), and child malnutrition. So far This dialogue has resulted into the creation of a poverty secretariat under the Department of Economic Development Policy & Research, MoFPED to oversee the critical review of Uganda's national poverty line.

More than 30 policy actors, researchers and journalists attended a special workshop hosted by EPRC and the Partnership for Economic Policy (PEP) in Kampala, Uganda, on February 9, 2017, to discuss the theme of "*Agricultural Productivity, Technology Adoption and Welfare in Uganda*". The event provided a unique opportunity for early-career researchers to present and discuss their findings and policy recommendations regarding important agricultural issues in

Policy Actors, Researchers and Journalists Attend a workshop on the Impact of Agricultural Technology on Productivity and Welfare Co-Hosted by the Partnership for Economic Policy (PEP) and EPRC on February 9, 2017.

Uganda with key stakeholders. Dr. Bethuel Kinyanjui Kinuthia, a STAARS fellow, and Dr. Francis Mwesigye, a researcher at EPRC, presented findings from their studies on the "Impact of Agriculture Technology Adoption on Farmers' Welfare in Uganda" and "Technology Adoption and Irish Potato value chain in Uganda," respectively, while Manuel Paradis, representing PEP, presented the work of another STAARS fellow, Dr. Mulubrhan Amare, on "Agricultural Productivity and Rural Household Welfare in sub-Saharan Africa: Evidence from Nigeria and Uganda".

The event highlighted the importance of obtaining as much information as possible about local contexts, based on multiple aspects (political, sociological, etc.) and also helped improve understanding of the structural changes in agriculture that are of particular importance to a number of the stakeholders who were in attendance. The workshop also marked the first collaboration of its kind between PEP and the EPRC, and was organized as part of the Structural Transformation of African Agricultural and Rural Spaces (STAARS) initiative. STAARS is a major African initiative aimed at promoting high quality research and capacity building for agricultural transformation as a key pathway to reducing poverty, and promoting inclusive growth and sustainable development in the region.

The 6th National Forum on Agriculture and Food Security held on June 5, 2017, brought together around 100 researchers, practitioners, agricultural experts, representatives of donor and international organisations, and policy actors from across the country for a highly successful event. During the forum that focused on whether Uganda's Agriculture sector was at crossroads, the presenters, panellists and participants concurred that there was need to address the slow growth and contribution of the agricultural sector to the economy. The discussion focused more on the extent to which the existing institutions might be supportive of a transformed agricultural sector to enable Uganda attain its aspiration of a middle income country by 2020. The participants recommended review of the institutional structures and streamlining of the overlapping institutions, establishment of institutional linkages that enable technology innovation uptake as well as implementation of land zoning and land reforms; and climate mitigation and adaptation strategies. The National Fertiliser Policy was also officially launched during the forum.

Dr. Swaibu Mbowa, Senior Research Fellow EPRC, Makes a Presentation at the 5th National Forum on Agriculture and Food Security.

The Centre remained as a secretariat for the Uganda Economics Association (UEA) and annually organises a public dialogue on budget analysis. Unlike previous years, this year's event was organised prior to the reading of the budget by the Minister of Finance. A public dialogue event was held on June 01, 2017 on the theme "Budgeting for employment". This was a collaborative event with ILO.

Targeted Meetings

Sensitisation/Orientation Sessions for Members of the 10th Parliament on the Status and Rights of Children in Uganda:

In collaboration with the Parliamentary Forum for Children (UPFC), the Centre held three (3) orientations for Members of Parliament (MPs) on children issues to identify champions within the 10th Parliament. The intent was to assist parliaments appreciate and focus on children rights in order to better represent these issues in the policy process at the parliamentary level. The first orientation took place at Lake Victoria Serena, Kigo on September 17 – 19, 2016 with twenty (20) MPs and Five (5) non MPs from MDAs (Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Justice, National Identification Authority & Ministry of Gender) in attendance. The two additional trainings were conducted during December 2016 (1-3, and 15-17). Members pledged to popularise the interests of children in their specific sessional and standing committees, as well as table private members bills. This activity was implemented on behalf of the Ministry of Finance Planning and Economic Development, under the Public Finance for Children Project supported by UNICEF.

Additional targeted meetings were held with:

- The Uganda Parliamentary Forum on Youth Affairs to disseminate research evidence guiding on which employment opportunities exist in which section of economy; Parliamentary Forum on Agriculture and Food Security to share preliminary findings of the Strategic Review of Sustainable Development Goals 2 on "Ending Extreme Hunger and Malnutrition"; and
- Expanding Social protection Programme (ESPP) in the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development to discuss the business case for sustained investments in social protection in Uganda.

Dr. Ibrahim Kasiyre (Right) Takes Part in a Panel Discussion at the Launch of Energy for Economic Growth Research Program in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania.

International Appearances

Researchers made 55 appearances at several international conferences in different capacities. Most researchers attended such fora as participants (16), paper presenters (15), discussants/panellists/session chairs (7), and trainees (15), among others. We highlight the outstanding ones:

EEG Policy Workshop: East Africa

On July 14, 2016 the Principle Research Fellow, Dr. Ibrahim Kasirye participated as a panellist at the Applied Research Programme on Energy and Economic Growth (EEG) Policy Workshop held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. The workshop brought together 60 participants- (researchers together with energy stakeholders and decision-makers) from four East African countries to discuss the key energy challenges faced in the region, and consider how the EEG programme can help address them. Sitting on the panel that discussed extractives and generation, Dr Ibrahim Kasirye shared insights from Uganda relating to the Chinese influence in financing and constructing hydropower dams. The workshop in totality, raised significant debates about how electricity shapes and drives growth, and how productive uses of electricity can be promoted that have the most inclusive and positive impacts on employment, poverty and gender equality. The workshop also revealed a series of research gaps, and highlighted the inadequacies of data collection and analysis in East Africa, and the importance of more accurate demand forecasting and generation of high-quality evidence that influences energy policy and drives sustainable and inclusive economic growth in developing countries.

PEGNet Conference 2016

Two young researchers-Martin Munu and Miriam Katunze presented their papers titled "Outcomes of the Nairobi WTO 10th Ministerial Conference: Challenges and Prospects for the EAC Cotton Sector Development" and "An Assessment of the EAC Sensitive List on the Performance of Domestic Industries, Welfare, Trade and Revenue", respectively at the PEGNet Conference 2016, held at the College of Business and Economics, University of Rwanda in Kigali, Rwanda on September 15-16, 2016. The conference under the theme- *Regional integration for Africa's economic transformation – Challenges and opportunities* provided a platform for high-level dialogue between development researchers, practitioners and policy-makers working on Poverty Reduction, Inequality, Growth and other related topics in Development Economics. In addition to the opportunity to share and generate comments on their work with other researchers, the two researchers were able to attended plenary and parallel sessions on topics including Services, Trade and Inclusive Growth, Regional trade and poverty reduction in landlocked countries, and significance of the European model of regional integration for Africa.

CSAE Conference 2017: Economic Development in Africa

EPRC researcher –Tonny Odokonyero discussed Performance-Based Financing in health, the case of Ugandan health facilities and presented a paper on development aid for health at the annual international conference of The Centre for the Study of African Economies (CSAE) - Conference 2017 held at St Catherine's College, Oxford University from 19th to 21st March 2017.

National Appearances

At the national scene, the centre continued to participate in dissemination and policy engagement events organised by the EPRC collaborators as panellists and keynote speakers. These interactions helped to increase chances of uptake of the Centre's research as well as enhance its visibility among stakeholders. The following are some of the notable events:

National Dialogues on Agriculture

Several EPRC researchers were invited as keynote speakers and panellists at the various agricultural dialogues held in the Course of the year. Mildred Barungi delivered a keynote presentation under the theme "Agriculture and the Future: Role of Youth in this Green Gold at the Launch of the Uganda National Young Farmers' Association (UNFYA)", on June 28, 2017. She was also a panellist at the National Dialogue on the Consequences of Inadequate Agricultural Extension Services on Local Government Revenue Generation in Uganda, National Dialogue on the Consequences of Inadequate Agricultural Extension Services on Local Government Revenue Generation in Uganda, organized by CEDO (Child Rights Empowerment and Development Organisation). Similarly, two researchers- Dr. Swaibu Mbowa and Dr. Madina Guloba delivered a keynote paper titled "Experiences with Agricultural Policy Formulation and Implementation: The Uganda Perspective", at the National Conference on Agricultural Innovations for Socio-Economic Transformation organised by the National Agriculture Research Organisation at Speke Resort Hotel on November 21-24, 2016.

Trade and Regional Integration Dialogues

Two EPRC researchers - Dr. Isaac Shinyekwa and Martin Munu were selected by Rosa Luxemburg Foundation as discussants for the dialogue series on "*How does south Sudan's admission to the EAC influence the shape and pace of the region's integration*?" The series discussed the implications of the admission of South Sudan into the EAC, in terms of the challenges as well as opportunities it presents. In addition, the same researchers were designated discussants at the Validation Meeting for the Draft Analysis Study of the Uganda-Netherlands Bilateral Investment Treaty held on December 12, 2016 at Golf Course Hotel, Kampala.

Dr. Mildred Barungi, Research Fellow (Holding Microphone) Discusses the Role of Youth in Sustainable Agriculture Practises at the Launch of the Uganda National Young Farmers Association on June 28, 2017.

Forums on Kampala City

Three EPRC researchers- Dr. Ibrahim Kasirye; Dr. Annette Kuteesa and Rakesh Gupta participated as discussants at the High Level Stakeholders Consultative Meeting on City Economic Development for Greater Kampala organized by KCCA at Kampala Serena Hotel on October 25, 2016. As a result of their outstanding performance the researchers were also selected as presenters and discussants at the Kampala Public Forum on the banking sector. The forum theme was "*Turbulence in Uganda's banking sector: Causes, Effects and Mitigation*". The discussions focussed on four topics namely; i) A brief analysis of the current state of Uganda's economy, ii) Analysis of the structure and performance of Uganda's banking sector, iii) Causes and effects of bank failures, and iv) Short-, medium- and long-term measures needed to mitigate the impact bank failures.

On April 11, 2017, Corti Paul Lakuma a Research Analyst with EPRC presented a paper at the East Africa's 3rd Sports Betting Conference held at the Kampala Serena Hotel. The paper titled; "*Is Sport Corporate Responsibility (CSR) Taken Seriously in the Gambling Industry*?" was part of the paper on Social- Economic Effects of Gambling in Kampala published under the EPRC Research Series.

Media Outreach and Appearances

During the period under review EPRC maintained a strong media presence; a platform it used to improve its visibility and stimulate discussion on the economic situation in the country. Details on how the various media channels were utilised are provided in the subsequent pages.

Print Media

Over 55 print media appearances were registered. A more detailed analysis of the print media reveals that most of EPRC's media engagement has been with the local media—especially the New Vision, Monitor and Observer newspapers in that order. However, EPRC's researchers have also appeared in international reputable media publications such as The Economist magazine and The East African newspaper. In addition, our researchers were able to write and publish opinion pieces and commentaries in the national press. The full list is provided in the table on press commentaries. Various EPRC research outputs were also shared with the print media for use as background information, although some were cited by the media. Those cited include:

- Excerpts from Dr. Ibrahim Kasirye's book titled, " Economic cost of domestic violence in Uganda" were cited in a New Vision article titled "Domestic violence Act: Five years after enactment" published on November 29, 2016.
- Reference was also made by the Observer Newspaper to the EPRC works on the rice and potato value chains in Eastern and Western Uganda.
- EPRC Policy Brief No. 76 "Reviving the grappling Education Sector: What can be done?" cited in the Observer of April 17, 2017: In an article titled "Researchers want govt to co-fund UPE".
- "Uganda needs to review tax exemptions," In 256 Business News (online) March 16, 2017 cites EPRC Research Series 130 "Linking budgets to plans in a constrained resource and institutional environment: The Case of Uganda" The authors suggest that a wider VAT coverage and improving the efficiency of tax collection is crucial for eliminating discrepancies between budgets and their out-turns.
- EPRC Policy Brief No. 84 "Fostering rural women non-farm household enterprises financing through local groups" cited by New Vision on June 30, 2017 in article titled "Way out for rural women in business".

Three out of the five press releases issued by the Centre and its partners were carried by the main local newspapers and broadcast. These included:

- A joint press release with MoFPED, UNICEF and EPRC on the launch of the Social Service Delivery Equity Atlas. The release was carried by New Vision online on October 25, 2016.
- EPRC's recognition in leading the production of Uganda's National Human Development Report 2015. The release was carried by the Observer on December 16, 2016.
- A joint press release with UNICEF on the launch of the Uganda Children's Portal held on June 21, 2017 was carried by PML Daily: http://www.pmldaily.com/news/2017/06/unicef-to-launch-national-childrens-portal.html and the Uganda Radio Network: https://ugandaradionetwork.com/story/ugandas-first-childrens-portal-launched

Audio-Visual Media

The EPRC researchers were also able to heighten their media presence through appearances on radio and television. A total of (9) TV and (16) Radio appearances, two of which were aired on the BBC Africa Service were made focusing on various national socio-economic issues including among others the post-election business environment, regulation of the informal sector and the new power tariffs, national and regional trade issues, and the national budget. In terms of audio-visual materials a total of five (5) video documentaries and features were produced and posted on the EPRC website and YouTube account:

- Talking head video for the IISD Project titled "Private Sector Investment in Climate Risk Management in Uganda.
- Short video on highlights of a two days training in Research and Communications for the staff of the Uganda Free Zones Authority.
- A 15 minutes video on proceedings of the Pre-Budget Dialogue on the 2017-2018 National Budget.
- A 5 min video on the proceedings for the workshop on climate resilient

Journalists Interview Dr. Sarah Ssewanyana, Executive Director EPRC on Budgetary Allocation and Financing for Children During the Launch of the Uganda Children's Portal on June 21, 2017 at EPRC.

agriculture value chains held at Protea Hotel, July 21, 2017.

- Seven minutes talking head video on the potential challenges and successes for the Uganda women Entrepreneurship programme.

Social and Online Media Presence

The Centre continued to embrace social media and other digital channels as a platform for sharing its research products and engaging with its stakeholders. To this end, the Centre in collaboration with UNICEF developed and unveiled on June 21, 2017 the Uganda Children's Portal – www.eprcug.org/children. The portal is a national online hub (one stop centre) for information and data on children in Uganda. Relatedly a landing page was developed and populated to share information generated under the INCLUDE platform Uganda. http://www.eprcug.org/research/include-platform-uganda. The platform seeks to strengthen evidence based policy advocacy on women entrepreneurship and social protection in Uganda. It is implemented by the Economic Policy Research Centre in collaboration with a consortium of the INCLUDE Platform Uganda Partners and the INCLUDE Knowledge Platform on Inclusive Development Policies.

The Centre also experienced exponential growth in its online presence. Website users grew from 10 (ten) since the launch of the new website in July 2015 to 15,930 by June 30, 2017. The page views increased from 500 in July 2015 to 58,511 by June 2017.

In terms of policy oriented blogs, a total of eleven (11) blogs were published on the EPRC website (3) of which were reposted on other external websites. Below is a matrix of selected commentaries and blogs published during the reporting period.

Table 3 EPRC commentaries published by the press

No	Author	Title of Article	Date Published	Media
1	Anita Ntale	What does UK EU exit mean for Africa?	July 1, 2016	The New Vision
2	Gemma Ahaibwe	Can task-shifting address worker crisis	July 22, 2016	The New Vision
3	Madina Guloba	Recruitment shouldn't be based on academic qualifications only	July 30, 2016	Daily Monitor
4	Musa Mayanja Lwanga and Anita Ntale	What First Lady should do; Here are the major reforms she needs to fix floundering education sector	September 9-15, 2016	The Independent
5	Swaibu Mbowa	Invest in Coffee to spur income status	October 9, 2016	Sunday Vision
6	Ezra Munyambonera	Perspectives and emerging issues of Uganda's external development finance landscape	October 13, 2016	The New Vision Online
7	Mildred Barungi and Ezra Munyambonera	Promote Climate Smart Agriculture	October 14-16, 2016	The Observer
8	Tony Odokonyero	Embrace safety culture at workplaces	October 25, 2016	New Vision
9	Rakesh Gupta	Duel of the dual: Uganda's economy and banking sector	December 28, 2016	The Observer
10	Rakesh Gupta	How to achieve the middle income dream	January 23, 2017	The Observer
11	Gemma Ahaibwe and Anita Ntale	Family Planning , women's health and the empowerment agenda	March 7, 2017	New Vision
12	Tony odokonyero	Fix health service delivery gaps to get rid of tuberclosis	March 23, 2017	Daily Monitor
13	Brian Sserunjogi	Practical ways to increase the domestic tax base in Uganda	June 12, 2017	The Observer

Table 4 Social media presence in FY 2016/17

Date	Author(s)	Title	Location Posted
29-Jul-16	Gemma Ahaibwe	Can task-shifting address the health worker crisis in Uganda's health sector?	http://www.eprcug.org/blog/498-can-task-shifting-address-the-health-worker-crisis-in-uganda-s-health-sector-2
29-Jul-16	Musa Lwanga & Anita Ntale	Tough Times for the First lady: A Floundering Education Sector	EPRC Blogs
23 Sept 2016	Gemma Ahaibwe	Uganda should prioritise jobs creation to harness the demographic dividend	http://www.eprcug.org/blog/484-uganda-should-prioritize-jobs-creation-to-harness-the-demographic-dividend
7 Dec 2016	Jacobus Collier/ Ibrahim Kasirye/ Andrew Zeitlin	Give power to the managers and the teachers will come	https://blogs.worldbank.org/impactevaluations/give-power-managers-and-teachers-will-come-guest-post-jacobus-cilliers
13 Feb 2017	Mildred Barungi	Promote Agricultural Intensification to Create Wealth and Eradicate Hunger	http://eprcug.org/blog/533-promote-agricultural-intensification-to-create-wealth-and-eradicate-hunger
6 Mar 2017	Tonny Odokonyero	Going multi-sectoral to accelerate Universal Health Coverage: There is no two-way about this one	http://speed.musph.ac.ug/going-multi-sectoral-to-accelerate-universal-health-coverage-there-is-no-two-ways-about-this-one/
8 Mar 2017	Mildred Barungi, Francis Mwesigye and Musa Mayanja Lwanga	Young female school dropouts are excluded from economic growth	http://eprcug.org/blog/540-young-female-school-dropouts-are-excluded-from-economic-growth
19 Mar 2017	Corti Paul LAKUMA and Musa Lwanga	Absorption and Implementation Constraints to Uganda's National Development Plan (NDP)	http://www.eprcug.org/blog/542-absorption-and-implementation-constraint-to-uganda-s-national-development-plan-ndp
21 Mar 2017	Musa Mayanja Lwanga and Corti Paul Lakuma	Ugandans are not borrowing: Why and what does it mean for economic growth prospects	http://www.eprcug.org/blog/543-ugandans-are-not-borrowing-why-and-what-does-it-mean-for-economic-growth-prospects
17 Apr 2017	Madina Guloba and Miriam Katunze	The need to focus on the growing number of underemployed persons in Uganda's labour force	http://www.eprcug.org/blog/549-the-need-to-focus-on-the-growing-number-of-underemployed-persons-in-uganda-s-labour-force

Institutional Strengthening and Networking

The financial year 2016-17 marked the end of the Centre's Strategic Plan for the period 2013/14- 2016/2017. Specifically, the plan expired on June 30, 2017. Thus the reporting period was characterised by review of progress made in implementation of the expiring strategic plan and preparation of a new strategic plan for the period 2017-2021. Several strategic planning activities were held, starting with recruitment of a consultant to guide the Centre in the process, engagements between the Senior Management Team (SMT) and Heads of Departments (HoDs), staff consultations and meetings which resulted into drafting a number of issues regarding the global, regional and national policy issues which are likely to impact on EPRC work over the next four years. A specific strategic planning retreat for all staff was held from 20-22 June 2017 at Esella Country Resort to concretize on the strategies, come up with an action plan and develop a score card for monitoring implementation of the plan.

EPRC Staff Participate in a Brain-Storming Session During the Retreat to Develope a New Strategic Plan for the Centre for the Period 2017-2022 Held at Esella Hotel from June 20-22, 2017.

During the period under review, efforts were also made to review and refine some of the centre's policies and practices in conformity with the changing institutional and national dynamics. These Include the ICT policy and Guidelines, The Publications Manual and Styles Guide, the later was reviewed by the Research and Advisory Panel (RAP) of the EPRC Board of Management on December 21, 2016, and finally approved by the Board on January 24, 2017. Also in a bid to strengthen processes and practices the Centre embarked on crafting of two new policies namely; Risk Assessment Register; and the Records and Archives Management Policy. The former was to establish a framework of identifying the potential risks to the centre's survival and possible mitigation measures, while the later was to provide a framework within which accountabilities and responsibilities for the implementation of a Records Management Program for the Centre. Both policies were in the final stages of completion and approval by the end of the financial year.

Institutional Linkages

EPRC maintained and expanded its networks both at national and international level with renowned regional, and international institutions and universities in the review period. These included:

Academia Linkages:

- A five year project on Supporting Policy Engagement for Evidence based decisions (SPEED) for universal health coverage in Uganda in collaboration Makerere University's School e of Public Health. Other partners include NPA, Uganda National Health Consumers Organisation (UNHCO), Institute of Tropical Medicine (ITM), Belgium and Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC), South Africa. The project is in its second year of implementation.
- University of Manchester under its Effective States and Inclusive Development Research Centre University of Manchester. One senior researchers received an opportunity to attend the "Cutting Edge in Development Thinking" training at Harvard Kennedy School in Boston, USA. The course presented and instilled new approaches to conceptualisation and construction of development problems with suggested new approaches that are relevant for both research and development initiatives to participants. There has also been a research linkage during the review period – a collaborative study on the evolution of national planning in the least developed countries.
- University of California, Berkeley in California implementing a randomized control trial (RCT) for an innovative sales offer for inorganic fertilizer in Uganda.

CSOs linkages:

- Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI)
- International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) and Reproductive Health Uganda,
- OXFAM
- Uganda Agribusiness Alliance

The main activities here were collaborative in nature – involving data collection; knowledge production and sharing through paper presentations.

Policy linkages:

- MoFPED
- NPA
- Operation Wealth Creation (OWC)
- UFZA signed a MoU
- Uganda Revenue Authority (URA)
- UN agencies – UNICEF, UNDP, WFP.
- Other MDAs

Think Tank linkages:

- African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) Policy Institutes Committee (PIC), is a Knowledge Network (KN) of the ACBF that brings together the ACBF-supported think tanks and policy institutes across Africa in order to share ideas, knowledge and experience, and affect policy directions in the continent. The PIC meets face-to-face twice a year and virtually many times in order to share ideas, knowledge and experiences on pertinent policy development issues faced by African countries and the management of policy institutes/think tanks in Africa. Under this network.
- *African Growth and Development Policy (*AGRODEP) modelling consortium facilitated by the International Food Research Policy Institute (IFPRI) where the Executive Director was a member of the steering committee. The consortium is an initiative aimed at positioning African experts to take a leadership role in the study of strategic development questions and the broader agricultural growth and policy debate facing African countries. Two researchers at middle and senior level attended the AGRODEP training sessions in Dakar, Senegal.
- 4th African Think Tank Summit spearheaded by ACBF. This is an avenue for the think tanks on the continent to meet and share experiences on topical issues. This year's theme was on "African Think Tanks and Industrialisation in Africa" held in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire in April 2017. The EPRC was represented by the Executive Director – she chaired a plenary session on "Sharing on initiatives around the continent on mind-set change for industrial take-off". Participants shared the best practices as well as lessons learnt when it comes to designing, implementing and getting the mind-set change initiatives right around industrial take-off.
- Association for the Strengthening of Agricultural Research in Eastern and Centre Africa (ASARECA) and THUNEN Institute in Germany (AGMEMOD). The collaboration was as a result of the previous works on the agricultural prices trends analysis. The current partnership is a cross-country initiative including Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda and Ethiopia. The main objective is to further the capacities in using equilibrium models as scientific instruments to be used for policy advise related to agricultural markets. Participants from these countries are expected to utilise the skills acquired to initiate the development of their country specific models. Two researchers from EPRC participated in the training.
- Centre for the Study of African Economies (CSAE), which is an economic research centre within the Department of Economics at Oxford University. EPRC researchers have leveraged the opportunities for knowledge sharing at the CSAE annual international conferences. However, during the review period, only one researcher managed to present a paper unlike the previous period when EPRC was represented by three researchers.
- Partnership with the Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO) to undertake a study examining the impact of aid allocation on infant mortality in Northern Uganda.

African Scientists Comprising EPRC's Paul Lakuma and Francis Mweisgye Pose for a Group Photo after the Agricultural Member States Modelling (AGMEMOD) Training Held at Thunen Institute, Germany.

PEP and EPRC Researchers Together with Other Participants Take a Group Photo During the National Policy Conference on Agricultural Technology and Productivity Held in Kampala on February 9, 2017.

- Poverty Reduction, Equity and Growth Network (PEGNET). It brings together researchers with an interest in issues revolving around the poverty-inequality-growth nexus in developing countries, and links them to the German and international development policy bodies. PEGNet is financed by the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and maintained by the Kiel Institute for the World Economy. EPRC is one of the partners in this network.
- Research on Poverty Alleviation (REPOA) with EPRC's active participation in REPOA annual conferences.
- United Nations University World Institute for Development Economics Research (UNU-WIDER) is part of the United Nations University. One researcher participated in the annual event as a paper presenter.
- Within the region, EPRC maintained its network with the African Economic Research Consortium (AERC) through collaborative research as well as participation in the dissemination events organised by AERC.

Continental/Regional bodies –

- African Union – The Union in collaboration with Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation organised a training of trainers' session on the Malabo Declaration. EPRC was represented by one senior research fellow.
- East Africa Community (EAC)

Private sector linkages:

- Capital Market Authority. EPRC participated in the drafting of the CMA strategy.
- Apex bodies – PSFU, Uganda Manufacturing Association (UMA); Uganda Chamber of Commerce'.

Other linkages:

- Uganda Evaluation Association is a professional association and national chapter of the African Evaluation Association (AfrEA). In the review period, one EPRC researcher presented a paper at the AfrEA held in Munyonyo, Uganda.
- Uganda Economic Association (UEA) - The EPRC continued to be a secretariat for the UEA as well as spearheading the organisation of the Association's event. As mentioned above, four UEA activities were organised during the review period.

A Panel of Experts Discusses Budgeting for Employment at the Joint EPRC and UEA Pre-Budget Dialogue Held at Imperial Royale Hotel on June 1, 2017.

EPRC Publications

During the review period, the Centre published research products as presented in Figure 1 (see, details, Table 1). All these products are posted and freely accessed on the Centre's website – www.eprcug.org – with the exceptional of book chapters, client reports and journal articles.

Some of the research products have also been shared with Makerere University repository and uploaded to the African Portal and AgCon search portal to increase utilisation of, and visibility of the Centre. Other avenues include display of EPRC research publications in targeted events – for instance, during the orientation workshops for members of the 10th Parliament and regional orientations on national child focused research agenda with academia (International Islamic University in Mbale, and Gulu University).

Figure 1 Research products published in 2016/17

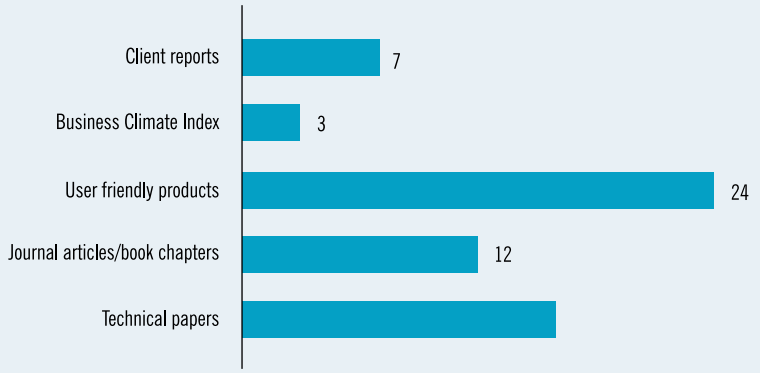


Table 1: Some of the research products published in FY 2016/17

Pub#	Author(s)	Title	Date
RESEARCH REPORT			
16	Mildred Barungi, Madina Guloba and Annet Adong	Uganda's Agricultural Extension Systems: How Appropriate is the Single Spine Structure?	Mar-16
15	Swaibu Mbowa & Tony Odokonyero	Understanding the rice value chain in Uganda - opportunities and challenges to increased production	Jul-16
RESEARCH SERIES			
137	Miriam Katunze, Annette Kuteesa, Theresa Mijubi, and Denis Mahebe	Uganda Warehousing Receipt System: Improving Market Competitiveness and Service Delivery	Jun-17
136	Tonny Odokonyero, Francis Mwesigye, Annet Adong, & Swaibu Mbowa	Universal health coverage in Uganda: The critical health infrastructure, healthcare coverage and equity	Jun-17
135	Joseph Mawejje and Paul Corti Lakuma	Macroeconomic Effects of Mobile Money in Uganda	Jun-17
134	Madina Guloba, Sarah Ssewanyana and Elizabeth Birabwa	Rural Women Entrepreneurship in Uganda	May-17
133	Madina Guloba, Sarah Ssewanyana and Elizabeth Birabwa	A pathway to social protection development in Uganda: a synthesis report	May-17

Pub#	Author(s)	Title	Date
132	Isaac M.B. Shinyekwa, Francis M. Mwaura, & Patrick Apecu	A Comparative analysis of the tourism sectors in the East African Community - the way forward for Uganda	Apr-17
131	Corti Paul Lakuma & Musa Mayanja Lwanga	Linking budgets to plans in a constrained resource and institutional environment: The Case of Uganda	Mar-17
130	Joseph Mawejje & Ezra Munyambonera	Financing Infrastructure Development In Uganda	Feb-17
129	Isaac M.B. Shinyekwa & Miriam Katunze	Assessment of the Effect of the EAC Common External Tariff Sensitive Products List on the Performance of Domestic Industries, Welfare, Trade and Revenue	Oct-16
128	Isaac M.B. Shinyekwa & Miriam Katunze	Determinants Of Domestic Food Price Differentials In Uganda: The Potential for and Constraints on Intra-County Trade	Aug-16
OCCASSIONAL PAPER SERIES			
42	Musa M. Lwanga, Madina Guloba, Ezra F. Munyambonera	Uganda Country Policy and Institutional Assessment Study for the period 2013/14 and 2014/15	***Apr-17***
41	Corti Paul Lakuma, Miriam Katunze, Maria Nagawa, oseph Mawejje, Musa Lwanga, Swaibu Mbowa & Isaac Shinyekwa	Country Reviews of Capacity Development: The Case of Uganda	Apr-17
40	Jacobus Cilliers, Ibrahim Kasirye, Clare Leaver, Pieter Serneels, and Andrew Zeitlink	Pay For Locally Monitored Performance- A Welfare Analysis for Teacher Attendance in Ugandan Primary Schools	Aug-16
POLICY BRIEFS and Policy Notes			
	Sheila Depio	Absenteeism: Key drivers of poor performance in primary education- UNICEF PB#4.2016	
Policy Note 2	Swaibu Mbowa	Agro-industrialisation for inclusive growth and development, STEPMAN #2, Policy Note, June 2017	
Policy Note 1	Swaibu Mbowa & Ezra Munyambonera	The transformative approach to Uganda's export strategy, STEPMAN #1, Feb 2017	
92	Francis Mwesigye and Tonny Odokonyero	Healthcare coverage and equity – Towards Universal Health Care in Uganda.	Jun-17
91	Tonny Odokonyero & Francis Mwesigye	A Review of Health Infrastructure and Workforce Critical for Delivering Universal health Coverage in Uganda.	Jun-17
90	Miriam Katunze	Improving the Ware House Receipt System in Uganda	Jun-17
89	UNICEF/EPRC	Improving water access through sub-county level equity prioritisation 3/17	Apr-17
88	UNICEF/EPRC - Katunze and Depio	Community engagement and its implications for latrine Coverage and better hygiene and sanitation practices – 2/17	Apr-17
87	UNICEF/EPRC	Playing against the odds: Achieving better literacy outcomes in the Acholi sub-region – 1/17	Apr-17
86	Madina Guloba, Sarah Ssewanyana and Elizabeth Birabwa	Fostering rural women nonfarm household enterprises financing through local groups	Apr-17
85	Madina Guloba, Sarah Ssewanyana and Elizabeth Birabwa	Low literacy levels likely to impede rural women's success in business	Apr-17

Pub#	Author(s)	Title	Date
84	Madina Guloba, Sarah Ssewanyana and Elizabeth Birabwa	Government' financing of social protection initiatives dismal	Apr-17
83	Annette Kuteesa, Paul Lakuma, Rakesh Gupta, and Ibrahim Kasirye	Improving the growth and transition of small and medium Enterprises in the Greater Kampala Metropolitan Area.	Apr-17
82	Corti Paul Lakuma and Musa Mayanja Lwanga	Absorption and Implementation Constraint to Uganda's National Development Plan (NDP)	Apr-17
81	Corti Paul Lakuma and Musa Mayanja Lwanga	Challenges of Mobilising Resources to Finance Uganda's National Development Plan (NDP)	Mar-17
80	Tonny Odokonyero & Robert Marty	Has Foreign Aid Improved Health Outcomes in Uganda? Evidence from Panel Microdata	Mar-17
79	Madina Guloba, Mildred Barungi & Annet Adong	Understanding Farmers' Agriculture Extension Seeking Behaviour in Uganda	Mar-17
78	Madina Guloba, Annet Adong & Mildred Barungi	How Farming Practices Should Shape Single Spine Agriculture Extension Service Provision in Uganda	Feb-17
77	Joseph Mawejje & Ezra Munyambonera	How should Uganda finance infrastructure development?	Feb-17
76	Musa Mayanja Lwanga & Anita Ntale	Reviving the grappling Education Sector: What can be done?	Feb-17
75	Mildred Barungi, Annet Adong & Madina Guloba	Is Implementing Uganda's Single Spine Agricultural Extension Reform Feasible?	Feb-17
74	Munyambonera Ezra Francis & Maria Nagawa	Perspectives and Emerging Issues of Uganda's External Development Finance Landscape	Jan-17
73	Isaac Shineykwa, Martin Luther Munu & Miriam Katunze	Has the CETS list of products for the EAC generated intra-export trade	Aug-16
72	Mildred Barungi, Tonny Odokonyero, and Swaibu Mbowa	Why Strong Farmers Groups are Ideal in the Marketing of Rice in Eastern Uganda	July 2016,
71	Tonny Odokonyero, Mildred Barungi & Swaibu Mbowa	Supply of Improved Rice Seed in Eastern Uganda: The Gap and Required Investment	Jul-16
FACT SHEETS			
	Sheila Depio	Investing in human capital the national budget framework FY2017/18 - UNICEF BB	
	Sheila Depio and Rakesh Gupta	Playing against the Odds: Achieving better literacy outcomes in Acholi sub-region -UNICEF FACT	
BCI			
16	Joseph Mawejje & Paul Corti Lakuma	The East African drought subdues expected improvement in the business environment	Oct-Dec 2016
15	Joseph Mawejje & Paul Corti Lakuma	Uncertain times? Perceptions indicate continued dip in business performance	Jul-Sep 2016
Special issue	Lakuma Paul, Joseph Mawejje & Elizabeth Birabwa	Summary of lessons learned from the four years of Uganda Business Climate Surveys	Jul-16
CLIENT REPORTS			

Pub#	Author(s)	Title	Date
1	Ibrahim Kasirye, Madina Guloba, Sheila Depio & Sarah Ssewanyana	Strategic Review of Sustainable Development Goal 2 in Uganda	2016/17
2	Rakesh, Sheila Depio, Elizabeth Birabwa	UNICEF project	
3	Gemma Ahaibwe, Anita Ntale, Ibrahim Kasirye	Fifth Report on corruption trends in Uganda using the data tracking mechanism (DTM)	2016/17
4	Madina Guloba & Other external collaborators	Political Economy Analysis and updated "Horizon Scan" of Uganda	2016/17
5	Paul Lakuma, Annette Kuteesa, Joseph Mawejje, Rakesh Gupta	Qualitative research on binding constraints to firms expansion and transition in greater Kampala (**in collaboration with World Bank and London School of Economics)**	2016/17
6	Francis Mwesigye,	Employment status of young adolescents aged 14-17 years in rural Uganda with a focus on those engaged in Agriculture (in collaboration with FAO, Kampala Office)	2016/17
7	Gemma Ahaibwe, Anita Ntale, Sheila Depio	Rights-based family planning serve delivery in Uganda (**in collaboration with Reproductive Health Uganda and Population Council's Evidence Project)**	2016/17

Table 2: Select journal articles and book chapters published in FY 2016/17

	Names (s)	Title	Journal details
1	Joseph Mawejje	Electricity consumption and sectoral output in Uganda: an empirical investigation	Journal of Economic Structures; 5(21) http://dx.doi.org/10.1186/s40008-016-0053-8
2	Joseph Mawejje; Okumu Ibrahim	Tax evasion and the business environment in Uganda	South African Journal of Economics, 84 (3): 440-460
3	Ibrahim Kasirye	HIV/AIDS Sero-prevalence and Socio-economic Status: Evidence from Uganda	African Economic Review, 28(3): 304–318
4	Geoffrey Okoboi; Joseph Mawejje	Electricity peak demand in Uganda: insights and foresight	Energy, Sustainability and Society, http://dx.doi.org/10.1186/s13705-016-0094-8
5	Joseph Mawejje; Musa Mayanja Lwanga	Inflation dynamics and agricultural supply shocks in Uganda	African Journal of Economic and Management Studies, 7(4):547 – 567.
6	David Mwesigye Tumusiime, Joseph Mawejje, Patrick Byakagaba	Discovery of Oil: Community Perceptions and Expectations in Uganda's Albertine Region	Journal of Sustainable Development, 9(6):
7	Annette Kuteesa and Joseph Mawejje	Between the market and the state: Business association capacities for policy engagement in Uganda	The modern journal of African studies; 54(4):617-644

8	Isaac Shinyekwa and Lawrence Othieno	Uganda's Intra-East African Community Customs Union Trade Performance in Comparison to other Trading Blocs: A Gravity Model Analysis	Journal of African Development, 18:99–111.
9	Francis Mwesigye, K. Matsumo and K. Otsuka	Population pressure, rural-to-rural migration and evolution of land tenure institutions: The case of Uganda	Land Use Policy, 65: 1-14
10	M. Barungi and J. Tukahirwa	Land care Bylaws Increase Adoption of Soil Erosion Control Technologies: Evidence from Mt. Elgon Highlands in Eastern Uganda"	Journal of Resources Development and Management, 32: 1-9.
11	Miriam Katunze, Annette Kuteesa, Teresa Mijumbi and Dennis Mahebe	Uganda Warehouse Receipt Systems: Improving market performance and productivity	Journal of African Development
1	Isaac Shinyekwa, Julius Kiiza, Eria Hisali, and Marios Obwona	The Evolution of Industry in Uganda, **Book chapter**	In Carol Newman, Johne Page, John Rand Abebe Shimeless, Mains Sodetbon and Finn Tarpufacturing (Eds) Transformation, Comparative Studies of Industrial Development in African and Emerging Asia, United Nations University World Institute for Development Man (eds) Oxford University press : 191-210.

Joseph Mawejje Research Analyst Receives a Plaque from EPRC Board of Management for Emerging as One of the Best Young Researchers in the FY 2015/2016.

Beatrice Byarugaba, Director Agriculture Extension Services-MAAIF Presents to Selected Policy Actors Copies of the National Fertilser Policy After its Launch at Imperial Royale Hotel, Kampala.

Participants Pose for a Group Photo After the Business Climate Index Dissemination Workshop for the Western Region Held in Fort Portal on May 30, 2017.

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